

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 241730Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3817
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH
AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 3060 VICE 0300

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, SG
SUBJECT: SENGHOR LAUDS RESULTS OF ECOWAS SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: ON HIS RETURN TO DAKAR FROM LAGOS ECOWAS
SUMMIT, SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR SALUTED ROLE OF
GENERAL OBASANJO AND CITED ECOWAS ITSELF AS EXAMPLE TO
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REST OF AFRICA. SENGHOR SUGGESTED THAT NON-AGGRESSION
PACT AGREED ON AT LAGOS BE ROUNDED-OUT BY MUTUAL DEFENSE ACCORD,
AND URGED CREATION OF ECOWAS PARLIAMENT AND RECRUITMENT
OF STAFF PERSONNEL FROM ALL CONSTITUENT LINGUISTIC GROUPS.
MEETING'S CHOICE OF SENEGALESE TO HEAD COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS, SELECTION OF DAKAR FOR NEXT SUMMIT, AND
ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER SENEGALESE POSITIONS MAY HELP EXPLAIN

NOTABLE INCREASE IN WARMTH OF SENGHOR'S EMBRACE OF ECOWAS. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRESIDENT SENGHOR RETURNED APRIL 22 FROM LAGOS SUMMIT OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) WITH WARM WORDS FOR "PERSPICACITY AND FIRMNESS" WITH WHICH GENERAL OBASANJO HAD LED MEETING. SENGHOR SPOKE OF "VERY GOOD CONFERENCE ON ALL POINTS RAISED," WITH ACCORD REACHED EVEN ON "THORNIEST PROBLEMS." RECALLING SENEGAL'S SUPPORT FOR PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES AT TIME OAU WAS FORMED IN 1963, SENGHOR SAID ECOWAS PROVIDED "AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT MUST BE DONE."

3. IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL REMARKS, SENGHOR REVIEWED SUMMIT'S ACTION ON "FOUR PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS." FIRST, HE SAID SENEGAL HAD OPPOSED AS PREMATURE THE PLANNED DATE OF MAY 28 FOR CONSOLIDATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS, SINCE STUDIES WERE STILL UNDERWAY ON CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURE, RULES OF ORIGIN, PAYMENTS AND OTHER QUESTIONS; HE SAID OTHER DELEGATIONS HAD RALLIED TO SENEGALESE VIEW AND THAT MAY 28, 1979 HAD BEEN FIXED FOR CONSOLIDATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS, FOLLOWED OVER COURSE OF TWO YEARS BY LOWERING OF TARIFFS. SECOND, HE CITED AGREEMENT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JULY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WOULD ELABORATE A MULTILATERAL CONVENTION TO REGULATE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS. THIRD, SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL HAD ACCEPTED PACT OF NONAGGRESSION IN UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD LATER BE "COMPLETED" BY MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT AS IS CASE WITH WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO). FOURTH IMPORTANT POINT DEALT WITH, ACCORDING TO SENGHOR, CONCERNED INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. IT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED THAT ECOWAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH LIAISON BETWEEN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT AND FUND AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH COULD BE CREATED WHICH WOULD HAVE "AUTONOMY AND NOT INDEPENDENCE." SENGHOR REPORTED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED CREATION OF ECOWAS PARLIAMENT AND URGED THAT RECRUITMENT BE HANDLED ALONG BILINGUAL AND EVEN "TRILINGUAL" GROUNDS AMONG ALL LINGUISTIC GROUPS. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION OBASANJO'S SELECTION AS PRESIDENT, SELECTION OF SENEGALESE MINISTER OF FINANCE OUSMANE SECK AS CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD NEXT SUMMIT IN DAKAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: THESE CONCESSIONS MAY HELP EXPLAIN NOTABLY INCREASED WARMTH IN SENGHOR'S EMBRACE OF ECOWAS. THIS

IS HIS MOST POSITIVE ENDORSEMENT YET, AND FIRST TIME HE
HAS SEEMED INTERESTED IN HAVING ECOWAS ENDOWED WITH
NETWORK OF COLLATERAL POLITICAL AGREEMENTS (NON-AGGRESSION,
MUTUAL DEFENSE) SUCH AS SENEGAL HAS WORKED ASSIDUOUSLY
TO BUILD UP WITHIN THE FRANCOPHONE CEAO FRAMEWORK.
THIS IS ALSO FIRST OCCASION WE CAN RECALL WHEN SENGHOR
HAS DISCUSSED ECOWAS IN ANY DEPTH WITHOUT DWELLING AT
LENGTH ON IMPERATIVE OF EXPANDING IT TO STRETCH FROM
NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA OR LUANDA.
COHEN

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Message Attributes

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